

A TRIBUTE TO MAGGIE STEWART
FOR 50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY
SERVICE

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to pay tribute to a dear friend, Margaret Stewart of Upland, California, who has spent more than 50 years improving the lives of everyone around her as a selfless volunteer and inspirational community activist in San Bernardino County.

Born and raised in Ontario, CA, Margaret married citrus rancher Walter E. Stewart, and raised three daughters in and near their hometown. She began her civic volunteering in 1949 with the Upland Junior Welfare League, and has been seemingly working harder every year since that time.

Maggie Stewart got her start in local politics in 1950, when she and Walt chartered the Chaffey District Young Republicans. That same year, they helped organize a sewer bond election, and two years later she helped organize a door-to-door campaign for a school bond election. Since that time, she has served as a campaign worker every 2 years for candidates for mayor, Assembly, Congress, governor and president.

Her stature within our local Republican Party has grown to such an extent that she is often identified as the driving force in keeping the party growing and strong. She has been a member of the California State central committee since 1980 and served twice as the chairman of the county Republican Party. She has been president of the local Republican Women and has served as a Regent for the National Federation of Republican Women. And she was a delegate to three Republican National Conventions.

Maggie has also spent nearly 50 years working with the Girl Scouts, representing U.S. Scouts in New Zealand, serving as Girl Scout Council president serving 26,000 Scouts, and organizing a national conference to help scouts learn public relations. She has been almost as active in the Parent-Teacher Association, serving as local president and in many other roles. The West End United Way presented Maggie with its leadership award for more than two decades of service in a variety of top positions.

Mr. Speaker, as you can imagine, Maggie Stewart's awards and public recognition are numerous and substantial. She has been Scout of the Year, Woman of the Year, Senior Citizen of the Year, and a Woman Achiever. She received many justly deserved awards in 1983 for co-chairing the year-and-a-half-long Centennial Celebration for the City of Ontario. For her latest tribute, she will be honored for 30 years of service to the San Antonio Community Hospital Auxiliary.

There is little doubt, Mr. Speaker, that Maggie Stewart is the epitome of social service and volunteer activism. She has registered thousands of new voters, contributed many thousands of hours of time, and helped create a real spirit of community in one of the fastest-growing areas of our nation. Please join me in saluting Maggie Stewart for her years of service, and wishing her well in all of her future endeavors.

HONORING TIMOTHY M. VETERE
OF MORGANTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA

HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Mr. Timothy M. Vetere of Morgantown, West Virginia for his award-winning entry in the Veterans of Foreign Wars' Voice of Democracy contest. His script is entitled "My Commitment to America's Future." I submit for the RECORD the text of his entry and commend the VFW for making the Voice of Democracy scholarship program available to students across our Nation.

MY COMMITMENT TO AMERICA'S FUTURE

I was walking along the sidewalk downtown one day and I passed by a large storefront window and caught a quick glimpse of myself. I have to admit that the first thing I thought was, "Hey, I look pretty good." I even stopped to take a second look. And as I stared into my gorgeous baby-blue eyes, I began to realize that my reflection was superimposed on an American flag, which was hanging in the display case.

As I looked closer, I realized that the edges were frayed and its colors faded and I thought, hmmm, I wonder how it got that worn? What stories would it have to tell if it could talk?

I began to envision it in battle somewhere or draping the coffin of a Vietnam War veteran, or, it looked pretty old, maybe even a World War II veteran. What if someone's grandfather had passed it down to his son and that man passed it to his son who was now honoring the memory of his grandpa by hanging that flag in his storefront window. Or did this flag fly outside of an elementary school where children of the SOs lined up in the courtyard to pledge their allegiance to the flag and sing "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

My eyes drifted to the 50 stars and I began to realize how hard each state must have fought to gain a spot on this symbol of American Unity.

As a person, I'm one among millions, but as an American I am an integral part of the greatest nation on earth. The stripes of the flag represent the purity in the American heart and sacrifices made by men just like me. I look back on the giants of history and feel my own insignificance. I am humbled knowing my own inability to measure up to their achievements.

I may never command American men in battle on foreign soil and, I pray to God I never command them on American soil. I may never land on the moon. I may never discover a cure for cancer. My name may never be used to inspire school-children to greater heights.

I may do nothing more than mean it when I say the pledge, sing the words of the National Anthem at a ball game, or feel the country's collective sadness when a soldier's flag-draped coffin is shown on the evening news.

But when I say the pledge maybe one other of my classmates may see my sincerity and share in it as well. When I sing the anthem at a ball game, those around me may hear the words clearly and be inspired to believe in the power behind the lyrics.

I may never become a giant in American history, but if I can in some small way influence others to feel the love I feel for America . . . if I can live my life as an example of heartfelt patriotism . . .

If I can raise my children with strong American values, then I will have made

America stronger. When you are the one looking at your own reflection in a store window, or in a mirror, who will look back at you? Will you be able to say, "Yes, I am an American citizen."

We are all united under the American flag and its symbolic colors. We can be separate individuals or we can work together to make America stronger, one citizen at a time.

REMEMBER AND HONOR LIEUTENANT
COLONEL FRANK H.
SIMONDS, SR., USMC (RET)

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to remember and honor a loyal patriot, neighbor, and friend. Lieutenant Colonel Frank H. Simonds, Sr., USMC (Ret), of Oakton, Virginia. Following a lifetime of dedication and service to his family and our nation, LtCol Simonds passed away on March 31, 2004, at the age of 85.

Frank was born October 1, 1918, in Sparta, Illinois. His parents, Thomas and Zuma Etta Simonds, owned and operated a grocery store while raising a family of six boys and two girls.

Frank attended Sparta Township High School and, in 1941, graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education.

In August of that same year, he joined the United States Marine Corps. While in service, he flew the SBD, SB2C, F4U, F7F-3N, and the F9F-8P. Stationed in the Pacific Theater during World War II, he flew out of such places as Guadalcanal, Bougainville, and Munda while serving with VMSBs-144/454.

Mr. Speaker, Frank also served in the Korean War with VMF (N)'s-531/513. After the war, he flew VMCJ-3 in the late 1950's. He had over 5,000 flight hours and was the Commanding Officer of VMF (N)-513, VMCJ-3, MCAS-4 and MWSG-27. For his remarkable service to the United States, he received the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross with Gold Star, and Air Medal with four gold stars before he retired from the Marine Corps in December 1966.

Upon retirement from the Marine Corps, Frank began a career with Control Data Corporation, where he worked from 1966 until his retirement in 1988. At the time of his retirement, he was the Eastern and Southeastern Regional Administration Manager and had enjoyed a 22-year career with the corporation.

He is survived by his lovely wife, Bobbie; his son, Lt. Col. Frank H. Simonds, Jr., USMC; his daughter, Kelley Simonds Hardison; his grandchildren, Michael, Lindsey and Hayley Hardison; his brother, Robert J. Simonds; and his sister, Millicent Simonds Bates.

Mr. Speaker, on a personal note, my family had the great opportunity of becoming acquainted with Frank and Bobbie when we moved to Oakton several years ago. More than just neighbors, they became very close friends. In fact, they even took on a role like unto family, and seemingly helped raise our son and daughter. For the blessing of having them come into our lives, we shall always be grateful.

Today, I join with Frank H. Simonds, Sr.'s family, friends, and community to commemorate his life of hard work, good citizenship, and